Expertise of Pepsico in the Field of Fruit and Vegetable Processing

301. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the expertise of PepsiCo in the field of fruit and vegetable processing and whether its nature and quality was examined by the CSIR or any other National institution and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) the details of the items which are likely to be imported by the PepsiCo and its value yearwise;

(c) whether import of flavours of mixture odoriferous substances are likely to be permitted and if so, the value thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the percentage of import content and the value added in the soft during concentrate plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Pepsico, in its plant in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany manufactures several varieties of orange and limejuice concentrates. In the United States of America, Pepsico has the largest aspect packaging plant for concentrated fruit juice. The Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, and Central Scientific and Industrial Research were consulted and their views were taken into account before aproving the project.

(b) to (d) The details of raw materials to be imported and the value addition will be known only as and when applications are preferred for import.

All imports shall strictly conform to the Government of India's policies and guidelines at the time of import.

National Commission on Rural Labour

302. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour has sought the views of voluntary organisations in States and experts for the overall development of rural labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the voluntary organisations thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Questionnaire circulated by the Commission seeks the views on the various aspects of rural labour, such as, conditions of work, organisation of rural labour, wages, employment generation, social security migration of labour, land reforms, bonded labour and problems of women and children. In addition to the above cited general Questionnaire, views of the Voluntary organisations have also been sought through another Questionnaire on the problems and suggestions regarding minimum wages paid to rural labour. The replies to the Questionnaire have been reaching the Office of the Commission.

Sponge Iron Plant at Daitori, Orissa

303. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a sponge iron plant at Daitori in Orissa;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India has been assigned the task to set up the sponge iron plant;

(c) if so, when that sponge iron plant is going to be set up at Daitori; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?